



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Approved for use through 06/30/2007. OMB 06-0331
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
spend to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/619,497-Conf. #8847
				Filing Date	July 16, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	2171
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
(Use as many sheets as necessary)					
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	
				R2184.0240/P240	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (# known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
f.d.	BA	EPO 62097984	10/31/1988			Abstract Only

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the Indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
P.A.	CA	WEN, et al., A Distributed Hierarchical Clustering System for Web Mining, WAIM 2001, LNCS 2118, pgs 103-113, 2001	
P.D.	CB	STAN et al., Image Retrieval Using a Hierarchy of Clusters, ICAPR 2001, LNCS 2013, pgs. 377-386, 2001	
P.D.	CC	VLEUGELS et al., Efficient Image Retrieval Through Vantage Objects, Visual '99, LNCS 1614, pgs 575-585, 1999	
P.D.	CD	JAIN et al., Data Clustering: A Review, ACM Computing surveys, Vol. 31, No. 3, September 1999	
P.D.	CE	NATSEV et al., WALRUS: A Similarity Retrieval Algorithm for Image Databases, SIGMOD '99, Philadelphia, PA	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

COPY

Examiner Signature	A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel D. Wex". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Daniel" and "D." being more stylized and "Wex" being more legible.	Date Considered	01/27/2006
-----------------------	---	--------------------	------------



PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/619,497-Conf. #8847
				Filing Date	July 16, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	2161
				Examiner Name	Safet Metjahic
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0240/P240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ³
		Country Code ⁴ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
80	BA	JP 63263590	10-31-1988			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
P.D.	CA	WEN, et al., A Distributed Hierarchical Clustering System for Web Mining, WAIM 2001, LNCS 2118, pgs 103-113, 2001			
B-D	CB	STAN et al., Image Retrieval Using a Hierarchy of Clusters, ICAPR 2001, LNCS 2013, pgs, 377-386, 2001			
P-D	CC	VLEUGELS et al., Efficient Image Retrieval Through Vantage Objects, Visual '99, LNCS 1614, pgs 575-585, 1999			
P-D	CD	JAIN et al., Data Clustering: A Review, ACM Computing surveys, Vol. 31, No. 3, September 1999			
P.D.	CE	NATSEV et al., WALRUS: A Similarity Retrieval Algorithm for Image Databases, SIGMOD '99, Philadelphia, PA			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	<i>Safet Metjahic</i>	Date Considered	01/27/2006
--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	------------



PTO/SB/08a/b (07-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/619,497-Conf. #8847
				Filing Date	July 16, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0240/P240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
					T ⁶

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			T ²
P.D.	CAA	Laaksonen et al., Self Organising Maps as a Relevance Feedback Technique in Content-Based Image Retrieval, Pattern Analysis and Applications Springer-Verlag, Vol. 4, No. 2-3, 2001, pgs. 140-152			
P.D.	CAB	Chen et al., Hierarchical Browsing and Search of Large Image Databases, IEEE Transaction on Image Processing, Vo. 9, No. 3, March 2000, pgs. 442-455			
P.D.	CAC	Krishnamachari et al. Image Browsing Using Hierarchical Clustering, Computers and Communications, IEEE 1999, pgs. 301-307			
P.D.	CAD	Pulo, Recursive Space Decompositions in Force-Directed Graph Drawing Algorithms, Australian Symposium on Information Visualization, December 2001, pgs. 95-102			
P.D.	CAE	Rodden et al., Does Organisation by Similarity Assist Image Browsing?, CHI 2001, March 31-April 5, 2001			
P.D.	CAF	Rubner et al., Adaptive Color-Image Embeddings for Database Navigation, Computer Science Department, Stanford University, pgs. 104-111			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	<i>Masajiro Iwasaki</i>	Date Considered	01/27/2005
--------------------	-------------------------	-----------------	------------



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2008. OMB 0851-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/619,497
Sheet	1	of	1	Filing Date	July 16, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	2171
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0240/P240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
P. J.	AA*	US 6,169,998 B1	01-02-2001	Iwasaki et al.	
V. J.	AB*	US 2002/0145603 A1	10-10-2002	Iwasaki	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
					T ⁶

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Patil C. Nelson

01/27/2006

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete If Known</i>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0240/P240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.				T ²
P.D.	CA	Musha, et al., "A User Interface Visualizing Feature Space for Content-Based Image Retrieval." The Institute of Electronics Information and Communication Engineers, Technology Research Report Vol. 98, Issue No. 204, pp. 141-148.				
P.D.	CB	Junichi Tatenuma, "Visual Interaction for Exploration in Information Space of Documents." Japan Society for Software Science and Technology 13th Conference, pp. 1-4.				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

01/27/2006